

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1944.

Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1944. The Minister of Health has directed that the report be prepared on the lines of that for 1943, so it will not assume its pre-war comprehensiveness. Restrictions previously imposed on the publication of population figures and some other matters have now been removed.

The report includes notes by the Sanitary Inspector on matters with which he is most particularly concerned, for his co-operation and help during the year I wish to express my thanks.

I am,  
Your obedient Servant,

L.WILSON EVANS.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Qualifications.</u>	<u>Office Held.</u>	<u>Whole or Part Time.</u>
L.Wilson Evans.	M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.	Part.
M.W.Sowden.	M.I.M. & Cy.E.	Sanitary Insp- ector and Surveyor.	Whole.

STATISTIC AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of District.	5,996 acres.
No. of inhabited houses according to Rate Book end of 1944.	1,899.
Rateable Value (End of 1944)	£38,966.
Sum represented by a penny rate , (1944/45).	£153.
Population estimate (Mid 1944)	6,420.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Number of Live Births.	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	65.	50.	115.
Illegitimate	12	5	17.
Total.	<u>77</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>132.</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Civilian)	20.5
Birth Rate England and Wales	17.6

Still Births      Legitimate    M. -      F. 1.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	M.	F.
Legitimate.	5	1
Illegitimate.	-	-
Total.	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>

Infant mortality rate, deaths of infants under  
1 year of age per 1,000 live births.      45.  
Infant Mortality Rate England and Wales.      46.

Deaths.	M.	F.	Total.
	34.	37.	71.

Death Rate per 1,000 population.	11.0
Death Rate England and Wales.	11.6

# Chief Causes of Death.

	M.	F.	Total.
Heart Disease.	6	9	15.
Intra-cranial vascular lesions.	4	5	9.
Cancer.	3	6	9.
Nephritis.	3	3	6.
Pneumonia.	2	1	3.
Bronchitis.	2	0	2.
Other respiratory Diseases.	2	0	2.
Deaths from Whooping Cough.		Nil.	
Deaths from Measles.		Nil.	
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age.		Nil.	
Deaths as a result of childbirth.		Nil.	

As far as the above figures are an indication of the health of the district they show a very satisfactory state of the public health. There was an estimated reduction in the population of 577, so although there were 5 fewer births, there was an increase in the birth rate, this with a corresponding reduction in the death rate gives an excess of births over deaths of 61 and so a natural increase in the population to that amount.

There was a welcome reduction in the infant mortality figure, which is below the average for the whole Country. Five of the six infants who died succumbed during the first week of life, the other living for 8 weeks, giving a neo-mortality figure of 37.8. They were all boys. Two of them were born in a Nursing Home and in the case of the others home conditions were good. The chances of survival after the first month of life have greatly increased in the last 30 years, the same cannot be said of the first weeks of life. More and better attention during the ante-natal period and great care in the nursing and feeding of the new born infants are measures which have been shown to have a good effect in reducing neo-natal deaths. The absence of any maternal death as a result of childbirth for the fourth consecutive year is a cause for gratification.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

### Cases of notifiable diseases distributed according to ages.

	0-1.	1-3.	3-5.	5-15.	15-25.	25-45.	45-65.	65 & over.	Total.
	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.
Diphtheria.	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	2
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-	-	6	7	-	-	6

The following was also notified.

One case of Puerperal Pyrexia 19 years; one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No cases of Measles or Whooping Cough were notified.

It was an exceptionally good year as far as infectious disease was concerned. There was only one case of Scarlet Fever in the Town all the other cases occurred in a residential school on the outskirts.

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

	<u>Under 5 yrs.</u>	<u>5-15 yrs.</u>
Number of children who received full course of immunisation during 1944.	58	13
The Estimated child population at December 31st, 1944.	537	1,066
Percentage of children considered to be immunised at December 31st, 1944.	37%	33%



Three cases of children under 15 years were notified as suffering from Diphtheria during the year. None of them had been immunised. The percentage of children immunised between 5 and 15 years was about the same as last year but those under 5 years of age shows a decrease. Not enough of the young children are being immunised. Only 27% of those who reached the age of one year in 1944 were treated. Since the County Council has taken over the responsibility for immunisation the propaganda campaign was left in their hands so as to avoid overlapping and duplication, but through the co-operation of the Surveyor posters on the Council's vehicles take publicity in to all parts of the district, but the most effective educational work can only be done by personal contact through doctors, health visitors, nurses and teachers.

#### Tuberculosis.

	Respiratory.			Non-respiratory.		
	M.	F.	Totals.	M.	F.	Totals.
New Cases.	-	1	1	-	1	1
Transferred from other Districts.	2	2	4	-	-	-
Total.	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Admitted to Sanatorium	1	1	2	-	-	-
Deaths.	-	1	1	-	-	-

#### Number of cases on Register at the end of 1944.

Respiratory.			Non-respiratory.		
M.	F.	Totals.	M.	F.	Totals.
10	6	16	9	12	21

It is very satisfactory to note that there was only one new case of Respiratory Tuberculosis and one death during the year. Non-respiratory Tuberculosis with only one case showed a marked improvement on recent years.

#### Water.

The Council has appointed a Consultant Engineer to report upon the supply and make proposals for additions and alterations to the supply, and with the better prospect of getting such work carried out it is hoped that the coming year will see the improvement which the Council has long desired. The quantity has been sufficient to meet demands although the Surveyor has taken steps to economise the supply.

Bacteriological Reports of the treated water taken during the year were as follows:-

	B. Coli.	Bacteria at 22°C.	Bacteria at 37°C.
6.6.44.	Absent in 100cc.	4 per ml.	3 per ml.
17.10.44.	1 in 100 cc.	24 per ml.	19 per ml.
13.11.44.	Absent in 100cc.	2 per ml.	5 per ml.
22.12.44.	Absent in 100cc.	3 per ml.	13 per ml.
17.2.44.	Absent in 100cc.	32 per ml.	19 per ml.
28.3.44.	Absent in 100cc.	2 per ml.	1 per ml.

#### Results of chemical analyses per 100,000 parts.

	Colour.	Total solids in solution.	Nitrogen as Nitrates.	Free and Saline Ammonia.	Albuminoid Ammonia.
15.2.44.	Pale Brown Slightly Cloudy Sediment.	63.0	0.15	0.007	0.009.

Chlorine in Chlorides. 11.7. Iron 0.01.  
Oxygen absorbed 4 hrs. 80°F. 0.13.  
Hardness: Temporary 18.5 Permanent 10.0 Total 28.5.  
per 100,000.

28.3.44.	Colour.	Total solids in solution.	Nitrogen as Nitrates.	Free and Saline Ammonia.	Albuminos Ammonia.
	Bright, a few small particles.	73.0	Trace.	0.0072	0.0048.
	Chlorine as Chlorides 13.6 Iron 0.014.				
	Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80°F 0.13.				

#### Analyst's Comments:

#### Bacteriological Comments.

Bacteriologically this is a pure and wholesome water.  
Chemically it is a hard water.  
It would be improved by removal of the colour and cloudiness.

#### Meat Inspection.

The Meat Inspectors from Ellesmere Urban District and Wem Urban and Rural Districts have been assisting in the inspection at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse during the year. Meat for Whitchurch, Ellesmere, Market Drayton and Wem Districts is distributed from the Depot in Whitchurch.

#### Housing.

The urgency of the need for houses throughout the Country is recognised as a major problem and one that must be tackled with all possible speed. Whitchurch is no exception. Many houses have more than their proper complement chiefly due to more than one family living together. A good proportion of these are the wives of men in the forces who are anxiously hoping to have a home for husbands on their return. There are probably 150 to 200 houses which should be demolished, but owing to the present serious shortage of houses and the delay that there must be in the erection of houses to meet the demands, these would have to be dealt with as part of a long term programme, but it is likely that at least 250-300 houses during the next five to ten years will be required to make the housing conditions in the Town reasonably satisfactory.

The Council applied for 50 temporary houses and have been allocated 20, while there are 60 permanent houses to be erected in the first year's programme, and 40 so far agreed upon for the second year.

#### Sanitary Inspector's Report.

##### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

##### Water Consumption.

The total water consumption for the year was 86,322,000 gallons, a daily average of 235,775 gallons, as compared with a total of 71,442,000 gallons (average of 195,700 gallons per day), for the year 1943, an increase of 40,075 gallons per day.

There has been no shortages or failures of supplies experienced during the year, the yield remaining fairly constant. Several requests to consumers for economy in the use of water have been made and frequent inspections of fittings and services have been carried out to prevent leakages.

The water is bacteriologically analysed once per month, and all reports received have shown the quality to be satisfactory. Chlorination is continuously carried out, and daily tests of the chlorine residual are made from the delivery mains.

No extensions to the Council's watermains have been made during the year.



Proportion of population supplied from public water mains direct to houses.	89%
Proportion of population supplied from public water mains by means of standpipes.	7%
Proportions of houses supplied from public water mains direct to houses.	89%
Proportions of houses supplied from public water mains by means of standpipes.	7%

#### Rainfall.

The rainfall as recorded at Fenns Bank for the year 1944 was 27.56 inches, as compared with 25.99 inches for the year 1943, an increase of 1.54 inches. The average yearly rainfall recorded for the past 36 years is 28.29 inches.

#### Drainage and Sewerage.

No new sewers have been laid during the year. Various repairs both to sewers and drains have been carried out during the year as required.

#### New developments.

There is nothing to report in connection with war-time industrial, military or other developments, during the year, nothing of this nature being carried out.

#### Schools.

All the schools in the district have been regularly inspected and found satisfactory.

#### Lodging Houses.

There now remains only one registered lodging house in the town, the other one having been demolished during the year. The remaining house has been inspected regularly and found to be satisfactory and well conducted.

#### Closet Accommodation.

There has been no change in the closet accommodation of the district during the year.

#### Scavenging.

The scavenging of house refuse has been carried out satisfactorily during the year and the refuse collected has been deposited on the Council's Tips.

The Council has a contract with the Salop County Council for rat catching on the tips, where there is a certain amount of infestation the one tip being adjacent to the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, and regular visits are made by the County employees to both tips with good results. The Salvage of scrap iron, bones, rags, etc., and the collection of waste paper has been proceeded with during the year, and a large quantity disposed of to the various dealers. The usual salvage drives and appeals were held on various occasions and brought good results.

The following is an account of Sanitary Work during the year:-

Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints or in course of a systematic Sanitary Survey.	1,450.
Number of legal notices sent.....	Nil.
Number of informal notices sent.....	212.
Number of such notices complied with.....	180.
Number of letters written.....	4.
Particulars of Sanitary Matters referred to in the above notices.	
{a} Houses to be cleansed after Infectious Disease....	Nil.
{b} Deficient or objectionable water supply.....	Nil.
{c} New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended.....	31.
{d} New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction.....	Nil.
{e} Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in bad sanitary condition.	13.
{f} Offensive accumulations of all kinds.....	Nil.
{g} Animals so kept as to be a nuisance.....	Nil.
{h} Houses overcrowded.....	2.

Houses disinfected after infectious disease, (other than Phthisis).....	7.
Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis.....	1.
Privies converted to water closets.....	Nil.
Privies converted to earth closets.....	Nil.
Plans for new houses passed.....	Nil.
Houses connected to Public water supply.....	Nil.
Private wells reconstructed or improved.....	Nil.
Houses connected to public sewerage.....	Nil.
Lengths of new sewers laid.....	Nil.
Lengths of new water mains laid.....	Nil.
Proceedings before magistrates.....	Nil.

### Housing.

No new houses have been erected by the Council or by private enterprise during the year. Several certificates of essentiality have been issued for repairs, additions and completion of property.

#### Post War Housing.

The Council's provisional programme for permanent housing is, for the first year, 60 houses. The sites are selected to which approval has been given by the Ministries, and site negotiations are now in progress.

#### Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 and 1938.

No new schemes under this Act have been carried out during the year and the total number dealt with under the Acts still remains at 7.

### Overcrowding.

Two cases of overcrowding were found during the year, in each case due to the taking in of lodgers, and upon preliminary action being taken, the nuisance was abated.

### Housing Standard.

Despite the changed conditions the housing standard of the district has been maintained throughout the year. No great difficulty has in most cases been experienced in having repairs to dwellings carried out.

### Infestation.

Complaints of rat infestation have been received in respect of 28 premises during the year and forwarded to the Salop County Council the responsible authority.

No cases of infestation by bugs and fleas have been found during the year.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

#### (a) Milk Supply.

All the farms and dairies within the district are frequently inspected and any defects found, including lighting, ventilation, drainage, cleanliness or structural conditions, are conveyed to the milk producers either verbally or by notices, with a view to having them remedied.

Number of Tuberculin Tested Milk sellers in District at end of year..... 2.

There is also one supplementary licence held to retail accredited milk within the district from premises outside.

#### Milk.

Number of producers of undesignated milk on register.....	32.
Number of inspections made.....	32.
Number of defects found.....	Nil.
Number of preliminary notices served.....	Nil.
Number complied with.....	-
Number of producers of accredited milk	

(Wholesalers 18, Retailers 2).....	20.
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Number of inspections.....	20.
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Number of samples of Milk which failed to comply with conditions	10.
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(according to copies of analysis forwarded by the Public Health Department, Salop County Council).

The quality of the milk has been good throughout the year, and the cowhouses and dairies have been kept in a good and clean condition.

Meat and other Foods.

Meat. The 2 Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses are inspected regularly and all carcasses found defective are condemned and disposed of as necessary.

Bakehouses.

The eleven registered bakehouses within the district have been frequently inspected during the year and have been found to be in a clean sanitary condition, with proper ventilation and lighting.

Other places where food is prepared and Shops, etc.

Inspections of these premises are regularly made.

Adulteration, etc.

The premises licensed under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, have been inspected and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Tinned and other foods inspections have been carried out and any found unsound have been disposed of as necessary.



